GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1422
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
INDIAN HERBAL MEDICINES IN GLOBAL MARKET
Ramadass Prof. M;Sharma Shri Madan Lal

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the popularity of the Indian herbal medicines in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken in collaboration with Indian Industries to promote Indian herbal medicines in the global market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) of Ministry of Commerce and Industry has conducted study on medicinal and aromatic plants. The objective of the study was to identify, market opportunities for India in the medicinal and aromatic plants domain and to coin strategies to promote exports.India is the second largest exporter of medicinal plants.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government have taken following steps:

I. Testing for heavy metals in all purely herbal Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines to be exported has been introduced with effect from 01.01.06 onwards.This has been done to meet the regulatory requirements of importing countries.

II. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 29 State Drug Testing Laboratories have been strengthened and 26 Pvt. Drug Testing Laboratories and other NABL accredited laboratories have been approved for testing of ASU drugs in the country.

III. A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle Partnership Project to study the physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies and scientifically validate the drugs.

IV. Good Manufacturing Practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country to improve the standards of the drugs for promotion of exports.

V. A Special Scheme 'AYUSH Industrial Clusters' has been introduced in 11th Plan to provide common testing facilities for industries to improve quality of drugs and promotion of exports.

VI. Assistance is provided to industries to participate in International Trade Fairs for promotion of AYUSH drugs.